



Upcoming Virtual Programs at the National Archives

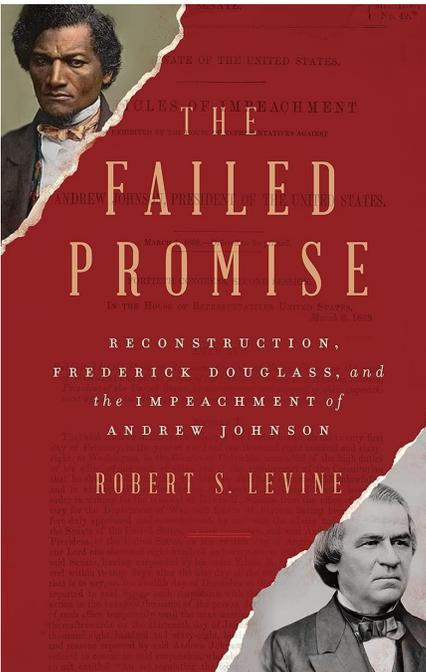
The National Archives is continuing to offer a full slate of public programs in August. An extensive list can be found [here](#). Below are several highlights on a variety of topics. All programs are scheduled according to Eastern Daylight Time.

The Women's Suffrage Centennial: Impact and Legacy

On **Wednesday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. EDT**, the National Archives will host a panel discussion around *The Women's Suffrage Centennial: Impact and Legacy*. During the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment in 2020, a wide range of activities occurred around the country. How effective were these commemorations in raising public awareness of women's fight for equality? How has the centennial impacted the telling of suffrage history and women and minority history more generally? Has the centennial provided impetus for further social action? And how well did it succeed in telling the stories of the women before us and in creating momentum for the work still to be done? **Colleen Shogun**, former Vice Chair, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, leads a discussion with panelists include **Karen Hill**, Executive Director, Harriett Tubman House; **Page Harrington**, author of *Interpreting the Legacy of Women's Suffrage*; **Rebecca Roberts**, co-author of *The Suffragist Playlist: Your Guide to Changing the World*; and **Shannon Browning-Mullis**, Executive Director of the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



On **Tuesday, August 31 at Noon EDT**, the National Archives will host **Robert S. Levine** for a discussion of his book, *The Failed Promise: Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass, and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson*. Levine presents the viewpoints of Black Americans on Reconstruction in this account of the struggle between the great orator Frederick Douglass and President Andrew Johnson. Despite early indications that Johnson would pursue aggressive federal policies for Black equality, Douglass soon grew disillusioned with Johnson's policies and increasingly doubted the President was sincere. Levine portrays the conflicts that brought Douglass and the wider Black community to reject Johnson and call for a guilty verdict in his impeachment trial. This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



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August 2021

Inside This Issue

AUGUST VIRTUAL PROGRAMS	1
HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE STACKS	2-3
EDUCATION RESOURCES	4

Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 W. Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

NOTE: All in-person public events at National Archives facilities nationwide are cancelled until further notice. This includes in-person public programs, tours, school group visits, public meetings, external conferences, and facility rentals.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Then and Now: A Look at the Historic Katz Drug Building

Kansas City is home to numerous notable historical buildings and structures, many iconic and instantly recognizable. From monumental edifices, such as Liberty Memorial, to historic landmarks, such as Union Station, to eye-catching relics of a different age, like the Western Auto Building, to sporting venues, such as Kemper Arena (now known as Hy-Vee Arena), Kansas City's architectural landscape captures the history of the city. Each building tells a story of the era it was built in and the activities, commerce and ideas that were important at that period. Though some of these structures have been frozen in time, serving as museums or left to their original use, many have been repurposed. Updated and remodeled, these buildings represent the past while serving the present. Another structure has been appearing in the local Kansas City news recently is the Katz Drug Building at Main Street and Westport Road.

The Katz Drug Building's story begins long before it was constructed, tracing back to Isaac and Michael Katz, immigrants whose business started as fruit sellers in the West Bottoms of Kansas City. Ambitious businessmen, the Katz brothers expanded their sales merchandise, and during World War 1, created the Katz Drug Company to take advantage of later business hours allowed for pharmacies during the war. Through aggressive pricing, expansive merchandise options and sweet treats such as soda fountains and ice cream sales in their stores, the Katz Drug Company grew to more than 65 stores across the Midwest. A landmark in this growth was the construction of the Katz Drug Building on Main Street in 1934. Boasting 20,000 square feet and modern features, it was one of the largest buildings of its type at the time of its construction.

A look into this building in its heyday can be found in a civil case file from the Fort Scott Division of the United States District Court, District of Kansas. Filed as Case #27, *Beulah Sweney v. Katz Drug Company* captures a day in the life of the store. On December 8, 1949, Beulah Sweney visited the Katz Drug store on Main Street to do a little Christmas shopping. Driving from her home in Mapleton, Kansas with her husband, she brought her young niece Patsy Steinmeyer with her to the store. The store was stocked for Christmas, and the Sweney's were looking for gifts, but first stopped at the store's soda bar. Following a treat there, they picked out a dress for Patsy, looked at the candy counter, and made their way to the cosmetics counter. Carrying the two-year-old Patsy, Sweney sampled perfumes, and decided on a purchase, a bottle of *Tabu* perfume. As she started away from the counter with her purchase,



Above: Defendants Exhibits, photographs of interior of Katz Drug Company. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the Third (Fort Scott) Division of the District of Kansas., Civil Case Files, 1939-1987, *Beulah Sweney v. Katz Drug Company*, Civil Case No. 27. National Archives Identifier 584939.

Patsy directed Sweney's attention to some dolls for sale. At that point, Sweney tripped on a stack of boxes in the aisle, fell, and severely injured her shoulder. Nearly two years later, still not recovered from the injury, no longer able to help on the family farm near Mapleton, or at her husband's insurance business in Garnett, Kansas, Sweney brought her complaint against the Katz Drug Company for damages, pain and suffering and lost income.

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These photographs of the interior of the Katz Drug Company were submitted by the defendants in the case. They were provided as evidence of a well-lit store, with adequate aisle space for customers to move around. But they also show a cutting-edge retail business, with a wide range of products, places for customers to eat and drink, and eye-catching advertisement throughout the room. Today's consumer is used to a one-stop shopping experience, where meals, treats, pharmaceuticals, toys and clothes could all be purchased at the same time. This was once an innovative concept. The architecture of the building was pioneering and a marker in development in its time. So too were the activities inside the building.

Beulah Sweny did not win her case. The defense successfully argued that she was equally at fault for the accident, obstructing her own view by carrying the child, and not paying attention to her surroundings in the store. The Katz Drug Company continued to flourish, and later merged with the Skaggs Drug Company, and eventually was acquired by CVS (Consumer Value Store). The building has not functioned as a drugstore since 2006. The building presently is awaiting its fate, perhaps to renovation in connection to new apartment buildings, or maybe to a different end.

Right and below: Defendants Exhibits, photographs of interior of Katz Drug Company. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the Third (Fort Scott) Division of the District of Kansas., Civil Case Files, 1939-1987, *Beulah Sweny v. Katz Drug Company*, Civil Case No. 27. National Archives Identifier 584939.



August Virtual Programs for Educators and Students

Young Learners Program - Meet Ida B. Wells on Thursday, August 26 at 11:00 a.m. EDT

Known for her fiery temperament, Ida B. Wells, as portrayed by **Marti Gobel**, will share a bit about her life, her work in journalism, and how her role in the U.S. suffrage movement was intertwined with her lifelong crusade against racism, violence, and discrimination toward African Americans. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

This **free program** is available via live stream on the National Archives [YouTube Channel](#).



National Archives Facility Information Regarding COVID-19

(updated as of July 31, 2021)

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19. National Archives staff will continue to serve the public remotely by responding to emailed requests for records and [History Hub](#) inquiries. Finally, all in-person public programs and events are suspended until further notice. We will continue to update the public as agency guidance becomes available. Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter [@KCArchives](#).



GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108, and is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us [@KCArchives](#). Follow us on Instagram at [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.